

# House File 2060 - Introduced

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## A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to social studies instruction in public schools
- 2 and including applicability provisions.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1. Section 11.6, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

3     (1) Except for entities organized under [chapter 28E](#) having  
4 gross receipts of one hundred thousand dollars or less in a  
5 fiscal year, the financial condition and transactions of all  
6 government subdivisions shall be audited annually, except  
7 that cities having a population of less than two thousand  
8 and budgeted gross expenditures of one million dollars or  
9 more in a fiscal year shall be subject to a required fiscal  
10 year examination for that fiscal year according to procedures  
11 established by the office of auditor of state, and cities  
12 having a population of less than two thousand and budgeted  
13 gross expenditures of less than one million dollars in a fiscal  
14 year shall be subject to periodic examination by the auditor  
15 of state according to procedures established by the auditor  
16 of state, and may be examined as otherwise provided in this  
17 section. However, a city having a population of less than two  
18 thousand and budgeted gross expenditures of one million dollars  
19 or more in a fiscal year shall not be subject to a required  
20 fiscal year examination until the city has two consecutive  
21 years of budgeted gross expenditures of one million dollars  
22 or more in both fiscal years, and such examination shall be  
23 conducted during the second of such fiscal years. A city  
24 meeting the requirements for a periodic examination shall be  
25 subject to an examination under [this section](#) at least once  
26 during an eight-year period at a time determined by the auditor  
27 of state. The audit of school districts shall include an audit  
28 of all school funds including categorical funding provided by  
29 the state, the certified annual financial report, the certified  
30 enrollment as provided in [section 257.6](#), supplementary  
31 weighting as provided in [section 257.11](#), the revenues and  
32 expenditures of any nonprofit school organization established  
33 pursuant to [section 279.62](#), and entrepreneurial education  
34 funds established pursuant to [section 298A.15](#). Differences in  
35 certified enrollment shall be reported to the department of

1 management. The audit of school districts shall include at a  
 2 minimum a determination that the laws of the state are being  
 3 followed, including section 256.11, subsection 4A, and section  
 4 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "b", that categorical funding  
 5 is not used to supplant other funding except as otherwise  
 6 provided, that supplementary weighting is pursuant to an  
 7 eligible sharing condition, and that postsecondary courses  
 8 provided in accordance with [section 257.11](#) and [chapter 261E](#)  
 9 supplement, rather than supplant, school district courses.  
 10 The audit of a city that owns or operates a municipal utility  
 11 providing local exchange services pursuant to [chapter 476](#) shall  
 12 include performing tests of the city's compliance with section  
 13 388.10. The audit of a city that owns or operates a municipal  
 14 utility providing telecommunications services pursuant to  
 15 section 388.10 shall include performing tests of the city's  
 16 compliance with [section 388.10](#).

17 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, Code 2022, is amended by adding the  
 18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. Social studies instruction  
 20 incorporating the standards established under subsection 5,  
 21 paragraph "b", shall be taught in all public schools prior to a  
 22 student's completion of grade eight.

23 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code  
 24 2022, is amended to read as follows:

25 *b.* Five units of the social studies ~~including instruction~~  
 26 ~~in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration~~  
 27 ~~requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in~~  
 28 ~~the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting~~  
 29 ~~an absentee ballot.~~ All students enrolled in public schools  
 30 shall complete a minimum of ~~one-half~~ one unit of United  
 31 States government, and one unit of United States history and  
 32 Iowa history, and one unit of civics. These units shall  
 33 emphasize the use of interactive learning techniques and  
 34 important historical documents, including the Declaration of  
 35 Independence, emancipation proclamation, federalist papers, and

1 the Constitution of the United States.

2 (1) The ~~one-half~~ one unit of United States government shall  
3 include the ~~voting procedure as described in this lettered~~  
4 ~~paragraph and~~ ~~section 280.9A~~. The government instruction shall  
5 also include a all of the following:

6 (a) A study of the Constitution of the United States; and  
7 the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution; and the  
8 thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and nineteenth amendments  
9 to the Constitution of the United States, and an assessment  
10 of a student's knowledge of the Constitution; and the Bill  
11 of Rights; and the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and  
12 nineteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

13 (b) A study of the structure of the United States  
14 government, including federalism, the separation of powers, and  
15 the electoral college.

16 (c) (i) A multiple choice assessment of the student's  
17 knowledge of United States government developed by the state  
18 board that consists of at least twenty questions that are  
19 similar to questions from the most recent version of the  
20 civics test developed by the United States citizenship and  
21 immigration services. On or before June 30, each public school  
22 district shall submit the results of the assessment required by  
23 this subparagraph division, organized by grade level, to the  
24 department. The results shall include the median score, the  
25 percentage of students who correctly answered at least sixty  
26 percent of the questions, and any other information required  
27 by the department.

28 (ii) A public school district shall not submit results  
29 to the department that contain the personally identifiable  
30 information of any student.

31 (iii) The department shall publish on its internet site  
32 the results of the assessments submitted by public school  
33 districts. The results shall be sortable by school district  
34 and the grade level.

35 (2) The one unit of United States history and Iowa history

1 shall include a study of political philosophy and provide a  
2 comparative and objective analysis of ideologies throughout  
3 world history, including capitalism, republicanism, democracy,  
4 socialism, communism, totalitarianism, and fascism. The United  
5 States history and Iowa history instruction shall also include  
6 examples of political freedoms and economic development under  
7 these ideologies and include first-person accounts.

8     (3) The one unit of civics shall include instruction  
9 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration  
10 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in  
11 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting  
12 an absentee ballot.

13     (4) (i) Prior to a public school district using a textbook,  
14 book, article, video, or other educational material for the  
15 instruction required under subparagraphs (1) through (3) for  
16 the first time, the department must review and approve of the  
17 textbook, book, article, video, or other educational material.  
18 The department must also review and approve of a public school  
19 district's use of a textbook, book, article, video, or other  
20 educational material that the department last approved pursuant  
21 to this subparagraph four or more years ago.

22     (ii) The department shall consult with parents, guardians,  
23 and teachers during the review process.

24     (iii) The department shall provide for a public comment  
25 period of at least thirty days on a public school district's  
26 proposed use of a textbook, book, article, video, or other  
27 educational material prior to approving the public school  
28 district's proposed use. The department shall publish on its  
29 internet site notice of the opportunity for public comment.

30     (iv) The department shall publish on its internet site  
31 a list of all of the textbooks, books, articles, videos, and  
32 other educational materials approved for use by public school  
33 districts pursuant to this subparagraph. The department shall  
34 annually update this list on or before June 30. The list  
35 shall include, at a minimum, the title, author, and date of

1 production of each textbook, book, article, video, and other  
2 educational material.

3     Sec. 4. NEW SECTION.   **279.76 Currently controversial issues.**

4     A school district shall not require a teacher or student to  
5 personally affirm, adopt, or adhere to any belief relating to a  
6 currently controversial issue. For purposes of this section,  
7 "*currently controversial issue*" means any matter of or related  
8 to politics, history, or social affairs that is the subject of  
9 a current dispute or disagreement among one or more groups of  
10 reasonable persons.

11    Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to students  
12 entering grade one on or after July 1, 2022:

13    The section of this Act enacting section 256.11, subsection  
14 4A.

15    Sec. 6. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to students  
16 entering grade nine on or after July 1, 2022:

17    The section of this Act amending section 256.11, subsection  
18 5, paragraph "b".

19    Sec. 7. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to textbooks,  
20 books, articles, videos, and other educational material that  
21 a school district uses for the first time to provide the  
22 instruction required by section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph  
23 "b", as amended by this Act, on or after July 1, 2022:

24    The portion of the section of this Act enacting section  
25 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "b", subparagraph (4).

26                                   EXPLANATION

27                   The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
28                   the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

29    This bill relates to social studies instruction in public  
30 schools.

31    Under current law, the educational program established  
32 pursuant to Code section 256.11 is required to include,  
33 in grades 9 through 12, five units of social studies. The  
34 bill requires that all students enrolled in public schools  
35 in these grades complete a minimum of one unit of United

1 States government, one unit of United States history and Iowa  
2 history, and one unit of civics. The bill provides that this  
3 requirement applies to students entering grade nine on or  
4 after July 1, 2022. The bill provides that the unit of United  
5 States government shall include a study of the Constitution  
6 of the United States, the structure of the United States, and  
7 a multiple choice assessment of the student's knowledge of  
8 United States government. The bill requires a public school  
9 district to submit the results of these assessments to the  
10 department of education. The bill also requires the department  
11 to publish the results of these assessments on its internet  
12 site. The bill provides that the unit of United States history  
13 and Iowa history shall include a study of political philosophy  
14 and provide a comparative and objective analysis of other  
15 ideologies throughout world history. Additionally, the bill  
16 provides that the unit of civics shall include instruction in  
17 voting statutes and procedures. The bill provides that social  
18 studies instruction incorporating these standards shall be  
19 taught in all public schools prior to a student's completion  
20 of grade eight. The bill also provides that this requirement  
21 applies to students entering grade one on or after July 1,  
22 2022.

23 The bill requires that, prior to a public school district  
24 using a textbook, book, article, video, or other educational  
25 material for this social studies instruction for the first  
26 time, the department must review and approve of the textbook,  
27 book, article, video, or other educational material. The  
28 bill provides that this requirement applies to textbooks,  
29 books, articles, videos, and other educational material that  
30 a public school district uses for the first time to provide  
31 the social studies instruction on or after July 1, 2022. The  
32 bill describes the review process, which includes consultation  
33 with parents, guardians, and teachers, and a period for public  
34 comment. The bill requires the department to publish on its  
35 internet site a list of all educational materials approved for

1 use by public schools.

2 Under current law, school districts are required to be  
3 audited annually to determine, in part, that the laws of the  
4 state are being followed. The bill incorporates into this  
5 requirement that the school districts be audited annually to  
6 determine that the requirements related to social studies  
7 instruction are being followed. Current law also requires that  
8 a written report of an audit or examination shall be provided  
9 to the school district, filed with the auditor, and be open to  
10 public inspection.

11 The bill provides that school districts shall not  
12 require teachers or students to personally affirm any  
13 currently controversial issues. The bill defines "currently  
14 controversial issue" as any matter of or related to politics,  
15 history, or social affairs that is the subject of a current  
16 dispute or disagreement among one or more groups of reasonable  
17 persons.